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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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12-4-1925

## Justice (Vol. 7, Iss. 49)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 7, Iss. 49)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast,  
and will not let it go."

—Job 27:8

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers  
of the world  
unite! You  
have nothing to  
lose but your  
chains."

Vol. VII. No. 49.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1925

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Stirring Reception Opens 18th Convention As Laborites Laud Our Accomplishments

The formal opening of the Eighteenth Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union took place at 10:00 A. M. on Monday, November 30, 1925 at a reception mass-meeting and concert under auspices of the arrangement committee of the Philadelphia locals of the I. L. G. W. U., at the Arch Street Theatre, 6th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

The meeting was opened by Vice-President Elias Reiberg, Chairman of the Convention Arrangements Committee, under the strains of the national Anthem followed by the stirring tones of the Internationale. The excellent musical program throughout the meeting was rendered by a symphony orchestra under the direction of Mr. Joseph Kazke. The stage of the Arch St. Theatre was literally deluged with huge floral pieces presented by local labor bodies, cloak and dress shops and groups of individual members.

After the applause which greeted the first musical renditions had died out, Chairman Reiberg delivered a short address of welcome on behalf of the Philadelphia organizations of the Internationale, extending their greetings to the delegates and visitors from out of town and promising on behalf of the arrangements committee to give the delegates, between sessions, every comfort and entertainment within their means. Brother Reiberg's speech was interrupted for several minutes by the arrival of a group of delegates, who came marching into the hall carrying placards on which were inscribed the legends "We want proportional representation," "We want recognition of Soviet Russia," "We demand Amalgamation," "We demand general amnesty," and a few others.

In a few minutes the newly arrived delegates found seats and Chairman Reiberg proceeded with the meeting by calling first upon Brother Adolph Hirschberg, President of the Philadelphia Central Labor Union, to address the assembled delegates and visitors on behalf of the central labor organization of the convention city.

Mr. Hirschberg: Mr. Chairman, of course, fellow musicians, delegates, visitors and friends, I am proud, indeed, to have the opportunity to bring to you the fraternal greetings of organized labor of the City of Philadelphia and its vicinity, and in extending that welcome to this City of Brotherly Love I feel almost like a thorn among roses, seeing all the floral decorations here. It is rare, indeed, for a man in the Labor movement to have an opportunity of presenting himself before such an audience and such surroundings as this. It is more in the spirit of a celebration. Of course, I trust that before your convention is over you will have the opportunity of celebrating the things that you will have accomplished during the time you are in session here.

In having your convention in this City of Brotherly Love you should be inspired by the wonderful things that have been accomplished in our home atmosphere, such as, for instance, the

### Maurer and Others Join In Welcoming Delegates

signing of the Declaration of Independence within a stone's throw from here, where hangs the famous Liberty Bell. Great things have been done in Philadelphia, and that ought to inspire you to do great things for yourselves while you are present. Brotherly love, if properly adopted, is the only thing that can advance you to the rung of the ladder that you are trying to attain. I mean the kind of brotherly love that you would use to your own brother when you find that you ought to instruct him to do better; when you debate and argue a question with him with the utmost sincerity, and after it is all over you are brothers as heretofore. And that's the proper spirit for the Labor movement. Without that brotherly spirit, where there is no malice and ill-feeling left after you use your advice, Labor can rarely advance to where it wishes to go.

We are glad to welcome you, because Labor in Philadelphia is not very militant. I wish I could have them here this morning to gain some of the inspiration that you could have instilled in them. I don't know when I have seen such a great aggregation of people at a Labor meeting or a Labor convention, and for that reason I have great hopes that great things will be achieved here, and for that reason I welcome you in behalf of Labor and trust that your deliberations will be successful and extremely beneficial to you in your sessions. I thank you (applause).

The next speaker to address the gathering was Brother David Braginsky, Secretary of the United Hebrew Trades. Brother Braginsky spoke in Yiddish. He extended fraternal greetings of his organization to the Internationale, and wished it success in its deliberations.

Brother James A. Ritchie, representing the American Federation of Labor in Philadelphia and vicinity, was next introduced. He spoke as follows:

Mr. Ritchie: Mr. Chairman, delegates and friends: There is always at least one day in a man's life when he has the opportunity to perform a duty that gives him a great deal of pleasure. This is one of the days for me. It, indeed, gives me great happiness as the representative of the American Federation of Labor for the Philadelphia district to have the honor of welcoming the Eighteenth Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in the city of Philadelphia, and while it is customary to say that we know that your deliberations and your activities during the sessions of your convention are going to bring better things in life for the members of your whole International Union, it is also customary for one who welcomes you to this City of Brotherly Love to refer to its historic incidents and its many accomplishments that have been achieved in our

city that have brought joy and happiness and freedom to the people of our country.

From time to time since then additional events have taken place in our city. Your convention is one of those events. Your coming here to Philadelphia to encourage each other, to devote your time, your energy and your thoughts to your deliberations will bring better things not only for the members of your International Union, but will reflect on the future well-being of all the wage-earners of this country (applause). It is going to add another chapter to the history of our city, and as the representative of the American Federation of Labor and on behalf of the entire Labor movement of our country and Canada. I have the joy and happiness of wholeheartedly welcoming you to this City. Philadelphia needs your convention. The members of the different unions in this district are glad that you have decided to hold your convention here. The movement in Philadelphia is just now going through a crisis.

It is said that history has been made in Philadelphia; and as far as the Labor movement is concerned, is the

last five or six years, we have been on the battle line and we have been fighting as best as we were able to, sometimes with our back to the wall, in order to maintain our organization. We have gone through many hard-fought battles in Philadelphia, and because we had groups of men and women who had faith and confidence in their organization, and fighting as they did and making every sacrifice that men and women could make, we have resisted reductions in wages; we have resisted the destruction of the eight-hour day and of union shop conditions. We have gone through those battles and we have saved our position, and I don't know of any other city where the battle was as severe and where the men and women of Labor have been called upon to make the sacrifices that they made here. We have saved our position and we are going to go into 1926 better equipped and more confident of future success than we have for many years past.

The accomplishments and achievements of your convention here will give added encouragement to the Labor movement of this district. If there ever was a time to preach to every members the aims and purposes and principles of organized labor, it is now. During the coming months we urge every member of every union to keep in touch not only with the man in the shop, with the woman in the

(Continued on Page 2)

## Unemployment Fund Starts Payments on December 15

Checks due the workers from the Unemployment Insurance Fund of the Cloak and Suit Industry for unavoidable idleness during the Fall season will be ready for distribution soon after December 15th, it was announced at the Fund headquarters today. A definite date will be announced later dependent on the promptness of all firms in the industry sending in all the final shop reports up to November 28th. To allow the workers to secure their unemployment relief when they probably need it the most, the period of distribution of funds has been pushed ahead two months by the Trustees.

It was originally planned to consider the Fall season as extending from August 1st to February 1st, but it was later decided to consider the Fall working period as ended on December 1st. Unemployment of the workers will, therefore, be computed on a basis of a four month period. Had the former plan prevailed no distribution of funds would have been made until about the middle of February, when in the natural course of events there should be little need of unemployment relief with the Spring season well under way. Hereafter the Spring season, for the computation of unemployment, will extend from December 1st to June 1st, and the Fall season from June 1st to December 1st. It is the

belief of the Trustees that the workers will be benefited by this change as payments will be made approximately in the middle of the unemployment periods.

In the interest of economy of operation of the unemployment fund and the convenience of the workers, it was also agreed upon by the Trustees to give all the money due to a worker in one check. It is felt by those directing the operation of the fund that this policy of giving the worker one substantial check to offset partially the effects of unemployment will be more satisfactory to the worker than supplying him with a series of weekly checks, which of their nature could not be for anything but relatively small amounts.

Data on employment and unemployment is sent to the Fund headquarters each week by all manufacturers and contractors of the industry. It is from this information that the Fund computes the amounts due the workers for unemployment. A large percentage of employers are prompt in making these reports, but as workers have a peculiar interest in seeing that all reports are in the hands of the Fund without delay, they are urged to remind their employers of the necessity of avoiding any delay whatsoever in filing the required information.

## Second Session Considers Report of Credentials Committee

The second session of the convention opened on Tuesday morning, December 1st, in the La-La Temple on Spring Garden Street, across the street from the Eagles' Temple, the place where the convention was originally scheduled to be held.

President Sigman called the delegates to order at 10 o'clock, after which Secretary Baroff proceeded to read messages and telegrams sent by locals and joint boards of the International and from other labor bodies, groups and individual friends and well-wishers of the I. L. G. W. U. in New York and other cities.

President Sigman then called upon chairman Abraham Snyder of the Credentials committee to read his report. The first open indication of division among the delegates came on the report of this committee. Protests against the seating of six delegations from locals on charges of irregular elections had been referred by the credentials committee to the Appeal Committee of the convention.

The report of the credentials committee's action drew down the criticism of Louis Hyman, leader of the "left wing" delegates, who, charging that the proceeding was a novel one, declared the "lefts" will not recognize the appeal committee or appear before it.

President Sigman immediately took up Hyman's challenge in vigorous fashion.

## President Sigman Informs Delegates Convention Decisions Are Supreme

ion. Breaking into Hyman's speech, President Sigman said:

"Before you proceed I want to address the voters back of the delegates tables. Our conventions have always been open because we believe that voters interested in the Labor movement can learn from the proceedings of a labor congress such as ours. But we sincerely request them not to partake in any demonstrations one way or another.

"To Brother Hyman I want to say this: Every delegate here is at liberty to say whatever he desires but I personally think that you should think carefully of what you are expressing. You said before that you would not appear before the appeals committee of this convention. The delegates as well as the local unions will have to recognize every committee that this convention appoints. Otherwise you do not recognize the existence of this convention.

"It is my sincere hope that we will do away with all artificial matters, including applause and demonstrations something which you are making quite frequent use of. Every question of disagreement upon a report of any committee, no matter what it may in-

volve, will be decided by the delegates to this convention, who are the supreme body to pass upon such questions. I am fully satisfied that every delegate here represents a membership in our International and that there is no justification on the part of any one delegate to refer to an artificial majority."

The Credentials Committee recommended the seating of 285 delegates, Chairman Snyder of the committee,

announced that protests had been received against the manner in which elections in local unions 2, 9 and 22, "left" locals, and 23, 48 and 62, "right" locals, had been conducted. These charges, he said, were not within the purview of the Credentials Committee and it had accordingly decided to send them to the appeal committee of the convention.

By a unanimous vote messages pleading support were sent the striking members of the United Mine Workers. On the motion of Israel Feinberg, birthday greetings were sent to Eugene V. Debs, famous Socialist leader now celebrating his 70th anniversary.

## Notice to Shop Chairmen

The shop chairmen of the following shops are requested to call at the Unemployment Fund office at No. 122 West 18th Street within the next week on important matters relating to insurance:

Bian & Son, S., 1613 E. N. Y. Ave., Brooklyn.

Bopst & Silberg, 40 West 22nd St.

Bratt & Feit, 149 West 23rd St.

Cee-An Art. Clk. Co., 129 West 22nd St. Cohen Bros., 149 West 22nd St.

Cohen & Elsenberg, 151 West 28th St. Davidson, Wm., 559 Seventh Ave.

F. & L. Cloak Co., 56 West 22nd St. Glensberg & Greenberg, 148 West 24th St.

Goldstein Bros., 149 West 22nd St. Hellman Skirt Co., 122 West 26th St.

Holzman & Dunn, 27 East 10th St. K. M. R., 34 West 15th St.

Kaman Gar. Co., 56 West 22nd St. Kayness Clk. & Suit Co., 129 West 22nd St.

Kerr & Steinberg, 16 West 21st St. Kessler & Herstone, 119 West 24th St.

Klein & Matiskoff, 115 East 29th St. Kovensky Bros., 2 East Broadway

Krinsky & Lesat, 127 West 27th St.

Leo Martin Cloak & Suit, 54 East 11th St.

Levine & Silverman, 147 West 22nd St. Lichtman & Son, 48 West 21st St.

Liebfraum & Sons, A., 48 West 15th St. Light & Graftman, 128 West 22nd St.

Millstein & Grad, 333 Seventh Ave. Monroe Jordan, 24 West 25th St.

Newman, Irving, 129 West 22nd St. P. R. Clark, 22 West 15th St.

Pekinsky & Schantz, 27 East 10th St. Rosenbloom & Solomon, 126 West 22nd St.

Rosen, J., 119 West 24th St. Rubinstein & Saretzky, 145 Dean St., Brooklyn.

Schneidman Clk. Co., 27 East 10th St. Schnef & Sons, A., 159 West 22nd St.

Sher & Co. (Shir & Posner), 132 West 21st St.

S. M. R., 27 West 22nd St. Spinkel, Stahelsky & Weber, 346 Sixth Ave.

Wirth & House, 3 West 14th St. Wirth & Kupperberg, 50 University Place.

Wolf Krenick, 121 University Place, Yarbelsky, A., 20 West 15th St.

Zelkin & Yablon, 132 West 21st St. Zoppel & Witkin, 159 West 22nd St.

## Convention Opens

(Continued from Page 1)

shop, but to get in touch with your friends, your acquaintances, your relatives who are not members of the organization who are eligible to membership in order that we may build up our organization both in numbers and in finance. That, my friends, is your duty and our duty. If we do that, we will be able to go into 1927 better equipped than we are now going into 1926. Do all you can not only during this convention when your enthusiasm runs high, but after the convention is over and you settle back to the daily routine of your work. Bear in mind that your co-operation with the rest of the organized Labor movement of this district is needed in the building up of the movement in Philadelphia to make it better and stronger.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate the committee on arrangements for this magnificent affair, and I want to thank you for this privilege, of wel-

coming you, and if there is anything that I might be able to do to serve you I only in this convention but at any time in the future, I shall, indeed, consider it a privilege to be called upon. (Applause.)

Brother Reisberg: The next speaker I have pleasure in introducing is one of our very early organizers. He needs no introduction, and that is our everlastingly young Brother Weinberg.

Brother Weinberg spoke in Yiddish. He recalled the early struggles of the workers of the International, comparing their wretched state in the past with the wonderful progress that had been made since the inception of the International, and urged that the delegates conduct their proceedings in harmony and solidarity. "We was heartily applauded.

The address of Brother Maurer, President of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, is printed elsewhere in this issue.

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## Essenfeld Explains His Retirement

Executive Board.

Bonnar Embroidery Workers' Union, Local 66, 7 E. 14th St., City.

Greetings:

The result of the elections recently held in our Union for delegates to the Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. has forced me to the conclusion that I can no longer serve as Manager of Local 66, and therefore not to be a candidate for that office when my present term expires.

I have been an officer of Local 66 for four years. During that time I have devoted myself to the duties of my office and to the interests of the members with all of the ability and the strength which I possessed. I never spared either health or time or effort, however taxing, in order to serve the Union and the welfare of its membership.

I feel sure that I can say without boasting, that my efforts have contributed considerably to steering Local 66 through the difficult and critical period through which it has had to pass during the last few years, in common with most labor organizations, so that today, when many other locals are disintegrating, Local 66 stands financially and in membership in a safe and sound basis, and in a position to meet the problems which face it.

In spite of these facts and the loyalty which I have shown to the interests of our Local, keeping aloof of all factional fights, the membership has been fit to reject me as a delegate to the I. L. G. W. U. Convention.

I do not know whether the results of the election reflect accurately the sentiment of the members towards me, because a group of people within the Union made it their special object to defeat me. The members were not called upon for a free expression of their opinions as to the fitness of the candidates, but every effort was made by the group of people which I have mentioned to influence members not to vote for me. Had I tried to counteract those efforts by carrying on a campaign for my own election, perhaps the results might have been different; but I felt as I always did in previous elections, that the dignity of the office which I hold, requires that I should not stoop to such methods, and as those who were carrying on the campaign against me had a free hand.

However the results of the election registers a vote against me, and apparently represents the attitude of the members that I could not properly represent their interests at the Convention. Under the circumstances therefore, I cannot conscientiously represent them further as Manager.

In order therefore that Local 66, for whose success I still hold and shall continue to hold the very best wishes, may have ample opportunity to find the right person to succeed me, I retire, I have thought it proper to inform you in advance of my intention not to be a candidate for reelection to the office of Manager, which position I now hold.

MAX A. ESSENFIELD

# Impressive Address by President James H. Maurer

Chairman Reisberg: I will next introduce to you the President of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, who has come from Harrisburg to address you. I take pleasure in introducing to you Brother James H. Maurer. (Great applause.)

President Maurer: As the chairman has informed you, I represent the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, and as the representative of this State I welcome you to Pennsylvania. We have many historic spots that it would be well for you to visit before you go home, such as Valley Forge, Harrisburg, Gettysburg, etc., where human blood has been shed in the struggle for the uplift of the working class. We have also the State Constabulary that was brought into existence to keep down the enthusiasm of trade unionists, and they have been in certain quarters very successful in trying to polish some of our skulls with their clubs; and it may interest some of you to know that they are using the members of the State Constabulary as a strike-breaking institution.

You are here to continue the work that was begun long ago for the general uplift of the working class. We, as a class, have been the suppressed people ever since the beginning of civilization. The struggle is only beginning to gather real momentum. We produce everything, yet as a class we own nothing. The harder we work the poorer we get, and the owning class—the less they work the richer they get. There is something wrong.

## Freedom For Giltow Urged By Local 66

The Bonnaz, Singer and Hand Embroiderers' Union, Local 66, I. L. G. W. U. has adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Benjamin Giltow, a member of the Working class and one of the best fighters of the Working class, for the promotion of its interests on the political and economic fields, has been sent to jail for no other offence than publishing a newspaper a few years ago, which was one of the best fighting newspapers for the interest of the working class, and

WHEREAS, many other members of the working class, who have been closely connected with Benjamin Giltow and who have been convicted with him for the same offence have been pardoned and released by the Governor of the State of New York; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the Bonnaz Embroiderers' Union, Local No. 66, I. L. G. W. U., uphold Benjamin Giltow in his activities in behalf of the Working class. We declare that he is one of our own class and demand of the Governor of the State of New York to pardon him immediately.

The above resolution was unanimously adopted and it was decided to insert it in the Labor Press.

## Penn. Labor Head Tells Delegates "Working Class is Watching You"

and the Labor movement seems to know what is wrong and the only way we can solve the problem is to understand each other and get together as real men and women. We must learn to be reasonable with each other and stop splitting hairs, stop fighting about non-essentials and wrestle with the real big things.

In this great State at the present time, there is a terrible conflict raging in the anthracite coal fields. Today marks the third month of the strike. In the soft coal fields west of the anthracite region, we have quite a different situation. Men and women and children are deliberately starving on the job and not on strike. We have a situation brought about by the people who manage industry who tell us that they know how to run things, and that all we need do is to obey orders. They have 200,000 more men in the industry than they need—an industry so frightfully over-developed that they can furnish work only from one to two days a week to the people dependent upon it for their existence. They are not looking after the workers' interests, but after the interest of the almighty dollar. That condition must be changed and only the workers can change it.

Ninety-five years ago in this city, we began a struggle for education for the common people. We demanded public schools for the rich and poor alike. The other side said: "The State is not here to take care of the people. The people are here to take care of the State, and if you are going to educate all the people it will mean that

they will become shiftless and lazy and nobody will do the work." We had to fight for free text books in the public schools, and we got them. When L. L. A. boy there was no child labor law; there were no laws to protect the men in the coal mines, no compensation law, and in my short life we went through the battle until today we have legislation in the interest of the common people. It was handed to us by the other side? No! Everything we have we fought for. If I had the power today to emancipate mankind from the thrall of wage making, I would not do it, because if I did do it you would not appreciate it. You would sink back into slavery in a short time after you were free. The only way you will ever get free is to go after what you want yourselves and fight for it, and if you know the price you pay for it you will appreciate it. (Applause.)

I want to congratulate this organization because it was one of the pioneers in workers' education. Time and again I am called upon to recommend somebody from the ranks of the workers for some important state position, but there are not many to choose from who are qualified. When the politicians pick somebody, he is not supposed to make good. If he does, he is liable to be fired. (Laughter.) But when labor puts a man on a job he must make good or it will give us a black eye. Therefore I congratulate you on taking a forward step in educating the mass.

Before I close I want to remind you of this: There are 40,000 men and women in Philadelphia working in

hotels and restaurants and only 750 of them are organized. Whenever you get a chance, get hold of the waiters and tell them the mistake they are making is not joining the organization. Pave the way for the organizers.

Another point—your ladies' garment workers don't seem to see the benefits of affiliating your organizations with the state organization that I have the honor to be president of. Our dues are low. I want all of you delegates to join your state movement. We need your advice, your assistance, and we want you to send your delegates to attend the meetings.

In conclusion let me say this: In any decision you are going to reach at this convention, always keep in mind this idea, "How will this affect the working class?" If it is going to be good for your class, it has merit; but if it is only going to be good for you to shine in the spotlight, it has no merit. The working class of the world is watching you today. They are waiting for something constructive, they are expecting you to go forward and not backward. They are hoping that you will be practical and not impractical, and that when your convention adjourns you will be united, and I hope and pray that when your convention adjourns you will join hands and march forward in a solid phalanx and meet the enemy face to face for a better world to come. I thank you. (Prolonged applause.)

## Mutual Aid League Dance December 11th

Mirth and laughter and a jazy dance band are to be among the attractions at the Rainbow Ball, the first annual dance which the League for Mutual Aid is giving at Webster Hall, 119 East 11th Street, down in Greenwich Village, on Friday night, December 11th. Theatrical and movie stars will be on hand to help in the entertainment.

It is the first big ball in some time that the League is giving. It is to serve not only to raise funds for this most human of organizations, but also to provide an evening's frolic for members, their friends and all who want to dance to tuneful music in the historic hall in the Village.

Despite the splendid record achieved by the League this year in helping scores of liberals and radicals who through one or another of life's vicissitudes were confronted by some desperate emergency, it is anxious to extend the scope of its work still farther. That is one reason why it is seeking to raise funds through the medium of this Rainbow Ball.

## Waldman & Lieberman LAWYERS

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## Things Worthwhile Knowing

### The Jewish Farmers

Twenty-five years ago, there were only several hundred Jewish farm families in the United States. Today we have a Jewish farm population of over 75,000. In 1900, the total acreage owned by Jewish farmers was about 12,500. Today, more than 1,600,000 acres are worked by Jewish farmers and the real and personal value of these holdings is over \$100,000,000. In this development the Jewish Agricultural Society, which has just issued a comprehensive report, has had a large part. Its farm loan department, since its establishment in 1906, has granted a total of 7,441 farm loans, aggregating \$4,762,000, to farmers living in 35 states. These loans are made on marginal securities—2nd, 3rd, 4th or even 5th mortgages. The repayment of these loans is spread over a long term of years and there is no exaction of bonus or commission or payment of renewal charges.

The farm loan department has secured farm employment for 15,355

Jewish young men since its establishment in 1908. Last year it placed 652 men as farm workers. This department affords young Jews the opportunity to acquire practical agricultural training. Records show that many bought farms of their own after their period of service had expired. The farm settlement department gives aid and guidance to those who desire to buy farms. It registered 7,547 applicants in the past seven years, and farms were found for 665, of whom 211 received loans to help finance their purchase. To properly locate these new farmers, it proved necessary for the Society's experts to examine 2,351 farms in the various states of the East and Middle-West. Through this department the Society is also carrying on effective farm prevention work, and is protecting Jewish farmers from land sharks and dishonest real estate agents. The extensive department maintains a staff of agricultural experts who bring to the Jewish farmer agricultural information on every branch of farming.

## JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel: Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President. S. YANOFSKY, Editor.  
A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer. H. A. SCHOOLMAN, Business Manager.

MAX D. DANISH, Managing Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. VII, No. 49.

Friday, December 4, 1925

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1920, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1917.  
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 23, 1919.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

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I. ROSENFELD, Director

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Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Office, 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel: Chelsea 2148

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## EDITORIALS

### THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

In the two hundred pages which comprise the report of the General Executive Board to the delegates of the convention now meeting in the City of Philadelphia, there is crowded a wealth of material and a mass of experience, which no delegate should fail carefully to read. It is a clear, concise narrative of conditions, causes and effects that rings true and impresses as much by its careful handling of facts as by its frankness and sincerity.

The delegates to the Philadelphia convention, each of them individually and as groups, no doubt are familiar with many details of the events in this or that city or locality touched upon in this report. But even to the most active of our workers the whole panorama of the activities of our International and of the forces behind the shifting scenes of its daily life, are to a large extent shrouded in a veil. This report successfully throws a light upon the events which make up the history of our Union in the past eighteen months and present a deeply interesting ensemble of all the chapters that make up this convincing and very important little book.

We are fully aware that there are quite a number among the delegates who have been deluded into believing that the officers of the International are servants of reaction, "counter-revolutionists" whose interests run counter to the interests of the membership. These notions have been assiduously implanted in their minds by a steady campaign of lying propaganda which they apparently could not resist. After reading the chapters of this report dealing with the recent upheaval in some of our New York locals, these delegates will reach the inescapable conclusion that they have erred deeply in so misjudging the motives and the acts of the G. E. B. and that they have sinned greatly, in act and thought, against the leaders of their Union. They will learn that in each one of their acts, the high officers of our Union were actuated not by motives of personal preferment or advantage but by consideration of the welfare of our workers as a whole, by the best interest of our Union and its future prosperity and stability.

They will find that the report is replete with facts that entirely contradict whatever former notions they may have had concerning the "reactionary" attitude of the G. E. B. They will learn of the steady unwavering fight which the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at its head, have waged for long months against the machine in the New York Joint Board until they finally succeeded in reducing it to an unsavory memory. They will find how these executives of our International have made one prodigious effort after another to clean out the detrimental influences in some of our New York locals which have hampered the organization as a whole and made its progress uncertain and at times impossible. And they will also learn that in each and every one of these instances, our so-called reformers and revolutionists, instead of aiding the General Executive Board in its truly commendable and supremely important work, have only aided these cliques and machines by tying up the hands of our leaders through their incessant attacks upon them, their disingenuous slanders in and out of season, attacks that were inspired by outside influences, a fact which the report establishes beyond the shadow of any doubt.

Another "discovery" which the delegates will make upon reading this report is that our International Union and its leaders never has persecuted any member nor groups of members for political beliefs or opinions, even though such opinions may have not conformed with the majority opinion of our membership or with the traditions of our Union. Far from that, our International Union and its present administration have practiced liberalism with regard to freedom of opinion in our Union in a generous and truly magnificent way. They will learn, for instance, that the General Executive Board has given time after time to men and women who should have been more carefully probed full opportunity to become leaders in our organizations and to run its affairs in the expectations that once in posts of responsibility these local officers would behave as union leaders ought to behave, and how even these modest anticipations were left unfulfilled and their hopes quickly dashed to the ground.

Upon reading the impressively told story of the internal fight in Locals 2, 9 and 22, the delegates will, perhaps for the first time, learn for themselves the true nature of the charges preferred last June against the executive boards of these locals and their underlying causes and compelling motives. They will then see that if the Joint Board in the first instance, and the General Executive

Board later, had not assumed the stand they had taken, they would have been guilty not only of laxity in the performance of their duty but of downright violation of the trust vested in them by the constitution of our Union and by the mandates of our convention. The documentary evidence, containing testimony that is both irrefutable and convincing which is a part of that chapter, will disclose to our delegates that the opposition elements in our organization have been, either willingly or unwillingly, made the blind tools of demagogues, and power-seeking politicians, and it will bring home to them the fact that this "outbreak" was hatched and engineered by these sinister influences months before the charges against these local officials had been brought. Step by step, the report will tell them how this campaign of malice and hatred finally succeeded in arousing a considerable part of our membership against the leaders of the organization, whom they themselves had elected to a position of trust and responsibility in their Union but eighteen months ago.

And as they read the chapter in the report entitled "Survey of Industrial Changes", the delegates will perceive clearer than ever before that one of the underlying causes which made the soil in our organization fertile for the growth of discontent and receptive to alien propaganda has been primarily the industrial slump which has affected our main trades in the last few seasons and the demoralization of work conditions wrought by the changes in production and distribution methods in the last few years. In a candid spirit the report also recites the fact that "a considerable amount of dissatisfaction among our workers had been aroused by the failure on the part of some former leaders in the Joint Board to maintain closer contact with the masses and by acts of favoritism of some groups at the expense of others." One or two of these former officers have in addition to this been proved guilty of acts of careless handling of funds and this has seriously affected the hitherto unsoiled tradition in our organization and the general high standards of conduct and personal integrity of its officials.

The demagogues in charge of the campaign of slander against our Union on the outside, of course, did not fail to take advantage of this state of affairs to inflame the minds of some of our workers against all the officers of our organization. True, the General Executive Board, with President Sigman at the head, have made herculean and quite successful efforts to break up these rings and cliques that have been fostering the body of some of our locals, but they have done it in a quiet, tactful and unostentatious way, and this gave the demagogues the opportunity to play themselves up as the "saviors" of the organization, a tactic which appears to have worked with some of the more near-sighted and glib in our ranks.

The readers of the report will, in addition, learn from it the striking truth that, in their efforts to break down the morale of our organization, these demagogues have made common cause with some of the most despicable elements in the Union, such as have flocked back into it, after unsuccessful careers as non-union contractors, back-sliders and black-legs of the meanest kind, whose number is legion and who consider our Union as the author of their failures and bear eternal hatred towards it.

The report bears convincing proof that, whatever their grievances—real or imaginary, these protestants and oppositionists have acted all through this controversy not like true union men and women but as an excitable and vengeful mob bent on destruction. In justice to the General Executive Board it must be stated that it was not carried off its feet by this provocative attitude and that, when after weeks of fighting it came to see that the life of the Union was in danger, it decided to reach an understanding with these groups in order to preserve the organization intact and undivided.

These chapters undoubtedly form the most arresting part of the report. Its other parts, however, are equally interesting and instructive. They tell graphically the story how in every district and market where ladies' garments are made and where we have organizations, in the States and in Canada, the General Executive Board has made repeated efforts to build up the Union or to preserve the existing locals.

These chapters are deserving of the closest attention of the delegates, and, when read in conjunction with the other sections of the book, they will give them a composite picture of the Union's life in the past year and a half, of its struggles, often truly dramatic, to carry on its mission and to do its work under circumstances frequently very trying and at times utterly unfavorable.

And in closing we should like our readers to peruse as carefully and with as much keen delight as we did the closing paragraphs of the report, which summarize the credo of the G. E. B. with regard to its past work and policy and its outlook on the future of our organization and our industry. They read as follows:

On the floor of this convention will be discussed and solved important, vital questions to our own organization and to the Labor movement as a whole. There is an industrial problem facing the great majority of our membership that actually involves their bread and butter, a problem as vital as the one that faced them in 1909 and 1910 when upon the crest of the great cloak strike our Union was rising. It is a problem the solution of which will tell whether work-week, scales, work-hours and every other safeguard that we had gained in the past fifteen years is to be swept away in a welter of demoralization and chaos.

There is an internal problem facing our Union of equal if not greater importance. We are weaker, in numbers, morale and fighting resources, than we have been for many years past. We have lost a great deal of blood in internal fighting, and our enemies are aware of that. This convention will have to settle the differences which have been tearing out

# PRESIDENT MORRIS SIGMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS

## Recounts Story of International's Struggle Against Great Odds

President Sigman: Mr. Chairman of the Arrangement Committee, members of our Philadelphia locals, delegates and friends: We deeply appreciate the efforts that have been made in getting together this magnificent gathering, for inviting all members of our local unions and for the invitations that you have extended to our friends in the organized Labor movement in this City who have delivered such inspiring and constructive talks that should help us in our deliberations upon matters that vitally concern us.

In calling this convention formally into session, it is appropriate for me as President of the I. L. G. W. U. to call to the attention of our delegates representing the members of our locals throughout the United States and Canada and of our friends who are gathered here, the history of the life and struggles of our great International Union, back to its very early stages; go back to the days when our International was yet in its infancy.

In the year 1900, the first convention of our International was called to order in the City of Philadelphia. There is no doubt in my mind that when they decided to call the first convention in the City of Philadelphia they had in mind the very high ideal and principle upon which organized labor is founded, and it is only upon that basis that it can go onward and make progress. They had in mind brotherly love. Twenty-five delegates were present at that convention. I don't know how many members they represented, but when I joined the International in 1903 the membership then consisted only of about five thousand throughout the country. Those twenty-five delegates who gathered together here in Philadelphia in 1900 chose this city, where the Declaration of Independence of our country was signed, because their coming together here represented the signing of the declaration of independence of the ladies' garment workers of this country, who at that time were wholly unorganized and who were treated as the most enslaved and the most exploited group of workers in the land. In 1900, when that little group of pioneers met here in Philadelphia, there were no floral decorations or music to inspire them. All that they saw before them was the huge task of organizing those countless numbers of workers and bringing them together into one fighting organization. Today, when going through very hard economic struggles because of the existing depression in the last four or five years, we can still count over one hundred thousand men and women organized in our International Union (applause); and now, coming to this convention, the task before us is how to get another hundred thousand workers who are still unorganized in the United States and Canada, into our fold, and make them share the benefits of the organized workers' movement.

This is the eighteenth national meet-

ing of our organization. A convention called by a labor organization is not called merely for the purpose of delegates socially meeting each other. Conventions are called in order to consider vital problems which deal with the life and the happiness of the workers in the industry. A labor union is a constantly struggling organization. A labor union therefore has always to meet and deliberate upon vital problems confronting its membership.

At this present convention we will have to meet the problem of organizing many thousands of workers who have come into our industry and will keep coming in because of certain changes that have taken place in it. We will have to meet the problem which deals with the morale of the Labor movement and of our organization. We will have to decide on action which may lead to a very serious conflict with some employers in certain markets. We will have to look into the situation of our workers right here in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia has given our International a rich history. We had two tremendous battles here, one of the cloakmakers in 1915, when for twenty-six weeks the cloakmakers were lined up on the battlefield. The employers at that time were the victors. But because our members did not lose their courage, we regained in one year not only all that we had lost, but we went even further. In 1922 we had another very interesting battle and had almost the same experience. A year later our efforts were revived and the dressmakers' union was again re-established. But the field in Philadelphia is still a large one. While we meet here, we shall have to look into every branch of our industry and do what we possibly can so that after our convention we shall be able to show what the workers have gained by having our convention here.

I don't know in what way we can compensate the speakers who have addressed us except by showing in our deliberations a unity of spirit and a willingness to push our movement forward toward greater progress. We appreciate, indeed, the generous welcome given us by President Maurer of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, Brothers Ritchie, Braginsky, and our old friend Brother Weinberg, with whom I jointly in the year 1903, together with many other men and women in the City of New York, conducted the campaign to organize the cloakmakers and prepared as best we could for the general strike of 1910. I hope they will visit our convention meetings and I hope that they will enjoy our proceedings and will con-

der them to be beneficial to the organized labor unions in Philadelphia.

In conclusion I wish to say that the Chairman of the Arrangements Committee has informed me that the place we had engaged for our proceedings, Eagles' Temple, was found to be too small to accommodate us, and we have succeeded in getting larger quarters at Lohs Temple, across the street from Eagles' Temple, where our proceedings will be held. There we will begin our work and we shall receive the greetings of representatives of organized labor. We are going to have a representative of organized labor from the other side, Comrade Plett, president of the German Clothing Workers' Federation, who comes as a fraternal delegate to our convention. We certainly expect also the President of the American Federation of Labor, Brother William Green.

## In the Cooperative World

German Cooperators Boycott American Packers

The resentment of the workers and farmers to the Big Meat Packers of this country is not confined to those of us who live in the United States. The following is abstracted from a letter written to The Cooperative League, by the Secretary of the powerful Berlin Cooperative Society: "Dear Cooperators:

"With Swift Packing Company and Armour, Chicago, we have had business dealings for several years past, and imported through their representatives American fats, chiefly lard. We remember having seen in the German press that both companies are enemies of the young American Cooperative Movement and avail themselves of every opportunity to harm this movement.

"We beg you, in view of our friendliness toward each other, to give us definite information about those companies. Should this firm also be hostile to the Cooperative Movement, we shall of course cut off relations with it.

With friendly greetings.

KONSUM-GENOSSENSCHAFT BERLIN UND UMGEGEND.

The office of The League immediately sent out letters to several of the cooperative wholesalers in this country asking for facts which could be transmitted to the German cooperators. The manager of the Nebraska Farmers' Union Exchange writes:

"Swift and Armour have persistently refused to sell us or recognize us as jobbers. Armour and Company have solicited our business and faith-

I will conclude with my heartiest greetings to you delegates to this convention. Please, bear in mind that you as delegates do not represent yourselves. You are only the trustees of the workers you represent, and who have placed their confidence in you, in the performance of your duties bear in mind the life and the struggle for happiness of the tens of thousands you represent.

I want you also to realize that a labor convention is the most constructive gathering for the good and welfare of the human family. As Brother Maurer has said the Labor movement will watch our proceedings. I greet the members of our International and I greet all of our friends and visitors. I am sure that this convention will, as our past conventions have, accomplish greater and brighter things for all of us and will lead our own organization, as well as the organized labor movement of the country, to further progress and to further advancement. I thank you. (Prolonged applause).

fully kept their agreements. The bulk of our business (2500 tons of tannage since January 1st) is with this company. Naturally, we can expect no love for consumers' cooperatives from adherents of big business, but our German friends have shown us the way to control the situation."

Meanwhile the Big Packers of the U. S. own 87 per cent of all the large stock-yards and 90 per cent of all refrigerators cars, and are most strategically located to smash every farmer's livestock marketing association if they dare. Since the packers are now trying to set aside the Packers Consent Decree, forbidding them to go into unrelated lines of business, we may yet find these big interests controlling the life of agricultural America.

London, the world's biggest city, boasts large on the co-op map, too. The London Cooperative Society number 122,000 members and 2,200 employees. It operates on a capital of £750,000 and distributed interest and cooperative dividends of \$800,000 last year.

Thirty thousand watermelons passed from the fields of cooperative farmers to the tables of union men's families in Chicago recently when the Farmer-Labor Exchange landed 30 carloads of the luscious fruit from the Farmer-Labor Union of Texas. The farmers received a price above the general market level, due to adroit marketing by the Exchange, while the consumers saved money at the same time.

Union asunder in a thorough democratic fashion—and settle them fundamentally and not by a process of patchwork and half words.

Our fight has not been, as many have been misled into the belief, against the "left wing" of the Union. Our Union always and has had a "left wing" within it and the preaching of extreme industrial doctrines has never been regarded in it as incompatible with the policy and practice of our organization. Our Union has never expelled members for belonging to any political party or for fighting within it for policies and principles that were contradictory to the accepted policies of the organization. But in the "left wings" of the past, no matter how bitter the controversy may have raged, we never failed to recognize members of our own organization, who were fighting primarily and essentially for their ideas and policies as union members with union weapons. But we have waged our recent defensive struggle and we still are in the field, against a crafty, shrewd enemy who had stolen his way into our organization under a disguise, through a back door, and who by means of character assassination, and by making allies of every dubious element in our organization is hoping to capitalize the misery of our workers and the errors of some of its leaders, past and present, for its own political advantage. The delegates to this convention will have to bear in mind one

essential thing. We are in America and our movement must and will remain part of the American Labor movement if it is to amount to anything. Some of them may wish to adorn themselves in all sorts of pretty feathers, but all of us should never forget that we must keep our feet on the ground if we don't wish to go in the air and become incompetent, as an organization, to fulfill our true purpose and mission as the economic organization of the workers in the women's garment industry of this country. Indeed, we are part of the American Labor movement, and we can no more divorce ourselves from it than we can from the very life we are living in, from the whole economic, industrial and social fabric which surrounds us, and, as part of this movement let us remember that a fleet travels only as fast as its slowest vessel and that a chain is as strong as its weakest link.

Our International Union has in the past conquered obstacles that seemed insuperable and solved problems that seemed insoluble.

If the delegates to this convention will rise to the great duty which is confronting them, the I. L. G. W. U. will emerge from this convention recovered in body, health and spirit, and equipped to meet the severe economic battles ahead of us. Such is our hope, our firm belief and our unshakable confidence.



# EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



## The Workers and History

By A. J. MUSTE

### Introduction to Course of Ten Lessons

The question may be raised whether it is worthwhile for the workers to study history at all. Henry Ford has said "History is bunk". The saying is perhaps profoundly true of the history to which he was referring. Someone else has said: "The only thing we learn from history is that men learn nothing from history." There are numerous indications that this is also profoundly true. Nations, social groups, trade unions, continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. Are there illustrations of this truth in the history of the American Labor movement and of your own organization?

On the other hand, one of the leaders of the British Workers' Education Movement has said: "The back-bone of the course in every labor college should be history". This suggests that some workers, at any rate, have found a way to use history to help them in their struggle for a better life.

History indicates that it takes a long time to get things done on this old earth. Consider the tens of thousands of years that elapsed before human beings "knew enough to come in out of the rain", to use caves for shelter. Consider that in the nine thousand years or so that elapsed between the dawn of civilization in Egypt and the Industrial Revolution in England in 1750, hardly a single new tool was invented; that the Russian peasant in 1914 lived exactly as the Egyptian peasant had lived 6000 B. C. Or consider the length of time required for the development of such a movement as the British Labor Party.

History indicates that great social changes in the past have always been violent and painful. Has humanity reached the point where it knows how to clean house without first smashing all the furniture?

History indicates that great social changes never bring men just what they think it will. Repeatedly man thinks he is on the eve of the millennium, only to discover that he is left face to face with much the same old problems.

History teaches that up to the present time the great masses of men, the workers have never been free. In one way or another they have been enslaved and exploited. Is there any indication that we today can achieve what the ten thousand years of civilization before us have not?

History indicates that there are two things which we have today which have never before existed in human experience. One is MODERN SCIENCE, including SCIENTIFIC HISTORY, giving us a picture of how ordinary human beings have lived and toiled and struggled for fullness of life. The other is a WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT including millions of members in nearly all parts of the world.

Perhaps with these two forces we may be able to accomplish what our forefathers could not. Some study of what Scientific History has to tell us about the past and especially about the workers of other times and other lands may be useful and interesting to us.

## Classes at the Workers' University

Next Saturday, December 5, at Washington Irving High School, Room 530, at 1:20 P. M. Professor Emory Holloway will continue his discussion on "A Social Study of American Literature." He will take up Hawthorne and the Brook Farm Experiment.

At 2:20 P. M. on the same day, Ben M. Selekmán will discuss "Company Unions." Mr. Selekmán has lectured for us before and is well known to the students of our classes. His discussions are always enjoyable and thought provoking.

On Sunday morning, December 6, at 10 o'clock, A. J. Muste will continue his course on "History and the Workers." His topic will be "The Cave Man and His Wife." We strongly urge our members to attend this excellent course. The value of his story to workers and trade unionists cannot be overestimated. It leads to a better understanding of the problems of society-economic, political and social.

On Saturday, December 12, at 2:20 P. M. in our Workers' University, Dr. Iago Galdston will lecture on "Preventive Measures in Safeguarding the Health of Workers." We need not emphasize the importance of good health to our members. Our lives and

happiness depend on it! Come and learn how to keep healthy.

On Saturday, December 19, at 2:20 P. M. Theresa Wolfson will discuss "Some Problems of Women in Industry." A discussion of these problems in the light of experience, as they affect the position of women in industry and in trade unions will do much toward clarifying a number of issues much befogged by old social and economic prejudices.

## Messages Received at Opening Celebration of Education Season

From President Sigman and Secretary Baroff

Regret beyond expression our inability to attend the Opening Exercises of our Educational Season. Let us all join in celebrating the Eighth Anniversary of our Educational Department and unite in our loyalty and devotion to our International Ladies' Garment Workers' that has always been interested not only in the economic advancement of our members but also in their intellectual development. With greetings to all.

MORRIS SIGMAN.

President

ABRAHAM BAROFF,

Secretary

From Spencer Miller, Jr.

The opening of the Workers' University and its general high standard of instruction, have become such a part of the tradition of the workers' education movement in the United States that we think of it as one of the important, permanently grounded efforts for self-education on the part of organized labor in this country.

It is the wish of the Workers' Education Bureau that the Workers' University may grow in power and influence and service to the numbers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and to the American Trade Union movement as a whole.

SPENCER MILLER, JR.

From Bertha and David Saposs

We both wish to express our best wishes for a successful year as well as congratulations to the Ladies' Garment Workers for their continued and persistent interest in furthering the education of their members.

DAVID AND BERTHA SAPOSS

From I. L. G. W. U. Students at Brookwood

We, the I. L. G. W. U. students at Brookwood congratulate you on your seven years of glorious achievements in workers' education. May your success be a source of inspiration to the Labor Movement in workers' education of their members.

BROOKWOOD STUDENTS

## Weekly Educational Calendar

### WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 16th Street, Room 530

#### Saturday, December 5

1:20 P. M. Emory Holloway—A Social Study of American Literature.

2:20 P. M. Ben M. Selekmán—Company Unions.

#### Sunday, December 6

11 A. M. A. J. Muste—The Place of Workers in History.

Primitive Man and His Wife.

#### Saturday, December 12

2:20 P. M. Dr. Iago Galdston—Preventive Measures in Safeguarding the Health of Workers.

#### Saturday, December 19

2:20 P. M. Theresa Wolfson—Some Problems of Women in Industry.

I. L. G. W. U. BUILDING, 3 WEST 16TH STREET

#### Wednesday, December 9

6:20 P. M. Alexander Michaudier—Social Psychology.

This course will consist of ten lessons and will be continued on Wednesday evenings.

### UNITY CENTERS

English classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced students, have been organized for our members in the following Public Schools:

P. S. 25 225 E. 5th St. Manhattan.

P. S. 171 162nd St. between Madison and Fifth Aves.

P. S. 43 Brown Place and 15th St. Bronx.

P. S. 61 Crotona Park E. and Charlotte St. Bronx.

P. S. 150 Christopher Ave. and Sackman St. Brooklyn.

### PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS

Coupons entitling our members to tickets at reduced prices for these concerts may be obtained at our Educational Department. Next Concert December 15th.

## Some Courses This Week

### COMPANY UNIONS

Lecture by Ben M. Selekmán in Our Workers' University, Saturday, December 5.

On Saturday, December 5th, 2:20 P. M., Mr. Ben M. Selekmán will lecture on "The Company Unions" in our Workers' University, a Washington Irving High School, Room 530.

The Company Union movement, or employees' representation has grown rapidly during the past decade. It represents a serious challenge to the Trade Union Movement. How do these plans operate in actual practice? How are wages, hours of work, and other conditions of employment determined in companies who have these plans? This discussion will be based on the actual facts disclosed of several typical plans.

This question of Company Unions should be of keen interest to every trade unionist, and we advise our members to make every effort to attend the lecture.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH OF WORKERS

Lecture by Dr. I. Galdston in Our Workers' University, Saturday, December 12, 2:30 P. M.

The worker more than anyone else is dependent upon his good health for his existence. It is a simple formula, but a real one, that the worker must work to live and must live healthy to work. With his sickness starts a vicious circle.

It is therefore most desirable that the worker learn to take advantage of modern preventive medicine, and learn to anticipate sickness, and in anticipating it, forestall it.

Some of the principles in preventive medicine will be presented by Dr. Iago Galdston in his talk at our Workers' University, Washington Irving High School, Room 530 on Saturday, December 12, at 2:30 P. M.



# Labor The World Over

## ROUMANIA

### The Reaction in Roumania

It is very seldom that news of the persecution of Roumanian labor succeeds in crossing the frontiers. Unlike the Bulgarian Government, which does its hanging in public, the Roumanian authorities work behind the scenes and rely chiefly on the efficacy of dumb prison walls. Martial law still reigns in Roumania in the larger towns and industrial centers, and even press offences came before court martial.

It will be remembered that all the editors of the trade union and Socialist press were tried for high treason by the Klausenburg court martial for publishing a May Day appeal. This court is probably also trying the General Council of the National Trade Union Centre—the very body which the communists are always accusing of making alliances with the Government. Yet another example has recently come to our notice.

Some leading workers of the miners' organization in Zaltale have recently been arrested because the Roumanian Ochtrana has just covered—two or three months after the event—that these leaders held a meeting just before May 1st to sign a petition to the Government asking for its permission to hold a May Day celebration. These workers have now been accused of holding a secret meeting for the purpose of organizing a May Day celebration and of assisting the unemployed. After cross-examination by the court martial they were released on bail, but the proceedings are taking their course. These men have been accused under the Emergency Act, which provides for a minimum penalty of 2 years' imprisonment.

## FRANCE

### Jouxhaux Calls for a Disarmament Conference

As representative of the French delegation, Jouxhaux, the Secretary of the French Confederation of Labor made a firm stand in the Disarmament debate at the League of Nations Assembly against the conservative delegates of Great Britain and Italy, and demanded of the Assembly that preparation should be made for a Disarmament conference. He said: "The present position is such that the solution of the disarmament problem depends ultimately on the good will and loyalty of the Governments. There is no doubt whatever that this problem will never be solved if the states are resolved beforehand to refuse the conclusions arrived at by the Assembly after analysis to the problem."

"On the other hand it is absolutely incorrect to maintain that the limitation of armaments depends entirely on the solution of industrial problems. Doubtless the question of disarmament has its economic aspects; but we must not confuse cause and effect."

## CUBA

### A New Protest from the Workers of Havana

The Havana Trades Union Congress, after having sent numerous telegrams to the President of the Republic and the Minister of Justice and of the Interior, protesting against the persecutions, imprisonment and deportations to which the workers are manifesto, denouncing the tyrannical action of the authorities, and their scandalous treatment of the workers, and pointing out that the authorities are defying the constitution, which guarantees the right of association and of holding meetings. Persons who have been inhabitants

of Cuba for 20 or 40 years are being summarily deported. The list of these unfortunate is already very long, but the deportations, still continue, and all organized workers must make up their minds to meet the same fate. All the Secretaries of the Factory workers' Union and the Workers' Federation are in prison, several organizations have been broken up, and the whole editorial staff of the trade union paper "El Progreso" is undergoing trial for "conspiracy."

Demands are even being made that some of the leaders of the Railwaymen's Union of the North shall be punished by death. It is obvious that determined efforts are being made to break the back of the workers' movement.

## RUSSIA

### Communism at Home and Abroad

TOMSKI, President of the All-Russian Trade Union Centre, at the British T. U. C. Conference, 1925:

"We do not ask anyone to abandon his ideas. Why should there not be diversity of ideas in the same international when we are agreed on one common aim? In a trade union there are Catholics and Protestants, and people of different colors and sexes. Does that prevent unity? It is not a question of setting up a political organization, but a united trade union organization which has as its central aim the liberation of labor from the yoke of capital."

### In Russia

Losovsky, President of the 2nd International of Labor Unions, at a meeting of the Executive of the Communist International in March, 1925:

"When we say that we are prepared to form one united organization and to fight, that does not mean that we are seeking a middle course. We will have no compromise whatsoever. There can be no alliances between Reformists and Communists; nothing but bitter warfare—and a relentless fight to the death."

"The work of bolshevizing the parties does not touch only one side of the question. Bolshevizing the parties means doing Bolshevik work in all spheres of the Labor Movement, and particularly in the sphere of the Trade union movement."

### GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY!

The Office of the International, 3 West 16th street, is open every Monday and Thursday until 7 o'clock to enable members of the Union to purchase.

"The Women's Garment Workers" at half price—\$2.50.

# РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКИЙ ОТДЕЛ

## В ОТДЕЛЕ.

Отделю известны для администрации Отдела следующие кандидаты на коммиссионный Комитет: 30-го ноября, который был принят единогласно.

На коммиссионный комитет идут следующие кандидаты:

В президенты Отдела — В. Котляк.

В вице-президенты — В. Марцишевский и А. Александров.

В секретари-организаторы Отдела: И. Шерешин и А. Скулин.

В протокольные секретари Отдела: В. Марцишевский.

В докладчики: В. Котляк, И. Шерешин, А. Александров.

В исполнительный Комитет Отдела 2-го: А. Александров.

В исполнительный Комитет Отдела 35-го: В. Никола, А. Новиков и В. Марцишевский.

В Исполнительный Комитет Русско-Польского Отдела: А. Александров, В. Котляк, И. Шерешин, А. Александров и С. Шин.

В Комитет Почвы Отдела 35-го: И. Франк.

По решению Комиссии голосование за кандидатов, не имеющих оппозиции, должно быть за и против.

## РЕЗОЛЮЦИИ РУССКО-ПОЛЬСКОГО ОТДЕЛА НА КОНВЕНЦИЮ.

### 1) О признании полномочиями делегата Комитета Отдела

Генеральный Исполнительный Комитет И. Ю. П. Ж. О. дал Русско-Польскому Отделу разрешение на конвенцию без права решающего голоса (почтено).

Так как мы являемся национальным членским комитетом в составе этого комитета, то считаем, что этот делегат на конвенцию без права решающего голоса не имеет никакого значения.

Поэтому требуем возмещения Комиссии И. Ю. П. Ж. О. дан делегату Р. П. О. полное право.

### 2) Требуем делегата.

На Коммиссионный Комитет И. Ю. П. Ж. О. Русско-Польский Отдел представил резолюцию № 6 с требованием отделить членство на конвенции в польском комитетском в Нью-Йорке.

Резолюция эта была направлена для решения в Генеральный Исполнительный Комитет И. Ю. П. Ж. О. в Нью-Йорке.

Генеральный Исполнительный Комитет изложил для рассмотрения нашего требования Комиссии. На заседании этой Комиссии мы неоднократно доказывали справедливость наших требований.

Так как этот Комиссия не могла дать высшей определенной резолюции, то Генеральный Исполнительный Комитет наложил другое Комиссии с правом окончательного решения этого вопроса.

Комиссия постановила после этого собрания в своем комитете, которая Комиссия до 10-го ноября не могла собраться.

Поэтому, требуем во внимание, что

справедливости наших просьб является неопределенной системой, мы требуем, чтобы Исполнительный Комитет И. Ю. П. Ж. О. дал свое согласие на отставку локального комитета для русских и польских членов в Нью-Йорке, с включением определенного плана для периода между выборами в новый комитет для русских, в котором они и в настоящее время принадлежат.

Выписка из конституции.

Полномочия делегатских лиц.

Статья 15. Полномочия делегатских лиц в члены Исполнительного Комитета должны быть предоставлены на экстренном собрании, специально для этой цели созванном на крайний срок за 3 недели до выборов. О дне и месте выборов Испол. Комитет должен известить до созыва члена на экстренном экстренном собрании.

Далее, делегатские члены отослали два и места выборы должны быть сделаны посредством главного объединения для польских, но крайний срок, за 3 дня до выборов.

На экстренном собрании, специально для назначения кандидатов, комитет должен прежде всего номинировать и выбрать Исполнительно-Отделу Комиссии, которая должна состоять не менее как из трех первых членов комитета.

Комиссия имеет право не ставить на баллотировку кандидатов решения те, однако, комитет обязан сделать комитет Исполнительно-Отделу Комиссии, которая должна состоять не менее как из трех первых членов комитета.

Возвращаясь к выделению на конвенцию должно быть включено на избирательно-отделу Комиссии, с включением вопроса о допущении и голосовании члена, являющегося для выбора голоса, но встречающийся возмещение, возмещение это справедливости голоса; она должна иметь членов голосующих членов, она должна находиться в том, чтобы в членских комитетах голосующих членов был составлен комитет.

Возвращаясь к выделению на конвенцию, комитет обязан сделать комитет Исполнительно-Отделу Комиссии, которая должна состоять не менее как из трех первых членов комитета.

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## ВНИМАНИЮ КЛОУММЕНЕРОВ.

В воскресенье 7-го декабря, в 7 ч. 30 м. вечера в помещении 315 Нит 10-й ул., состоится общее собрание членов Русско-Польского Отдела. Будет принят протокол Испол. Ком. Отдела с докладом Отделной Комиссии. Присутствие членских комитетов.

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# The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

For the present, the activities of Local 10 as well as of the entire international have been transferred to the city of Philadelphia, where, on Monday, November 30th, the Eighteenth Convention of the International opened. The opening, under the chairmanship of Vice-President Elias Reiberg, took place at ten o'clock in the morning in the Arch Street Theatre.

## Splendid Demonstration Greets Opening

A splendid demonstration greeted President Morris Sigman, and adding to the brilliance of the occasion were many floral tributes presented by the various locals of the International. Among those who greeted the eighteenth convention, bidding the delegates welcome and success in their deliberations, were representatives of the American Federation of Labor, the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor and the Philadelphia Labor Council.

On Tuesday morning President Sigman called the session to order and thus the business of the convention was under way. The President called upon Secretary Baroff to read the telegrams sent as greetings to the convention from all over the country.

From a large batch of telegrams the first that the Secretary read and which was greeted by thunderous applause was from Local 10, signed by Brothers Fruhling, Sachs and Hansel. The telegram greeted the convention, wished it success in its deliberations, and expressed the hope that the result of the convention should be the rebuilding of the Union which has been so shamefully shattered in the recent internal struggle. The telegram also expressed the wish that the convention would safeguard for the members of the International their right to solve their own problems without the domination of outside forces.

Telegrams were also read, from among the many sent, from Brothers Benjamin Krav and Harry Zaslowsky. They each wished the convention success and offered best wishes for the happy solution of all the problems facing the Union.

A telegram was also received and read to the convention from the cutters of Hatlie Carnegie signed by Brother Joel Abramowitz, the chairman. The cutters of this shop also wished the convention success in its deliberations and that the outcome would preserve for the members their elementary rights and the autonomy of the locals.

At the conclusion of the reading of the telegrams there was placed at the head of the convention hall a large beautiful basket of flowers attached to which was a large streamer on which were written the best wishes of the Cutters' Union, Local 10. As each telegram was read and as the various gifts of flowers were placed before the convention, each act brought forth prolonged applause.

The first important business that came up before the convention after the reading of the telegrams was the report of the Credential Committee, the Secretary of which is Bro. Nagler. The task assigned to him, though a difficult one, was ably handled by him during the course of his discussion on an important phase of the report of this committee.

Local 10's Delegates Tendered Send-off By Active Member

To the delegates of Local 10 the International to our members.

portance of the problems facing them at the convention was brought home at the send-off dinner tendered them by over two hundred of the pick of the active members. Among the guests were the delegates representing the out-of-town cutters' locals.

While the dinner arranged by Brothers Samuel Greenberg, Victor Neufeld and Philip Hansel was intended as a send-off, it turned out to be an impressive gathering. It was impressive in the sense that the gathering made its keynote, in the addresses delivered by various speakers, the need for further solidification and the preservation of the traditional rights of the members of Local 10.

It was a jolly gathering that considerably surprised the delegates of Local 10 as well as the out-of-town delegates when they beheld the splendid dinner in a beautifully decorated hall. The surprise was born of the fact that nothing was known of the affair until two days before it took place and then funds were raised by the sale of the invitation tickets, the delegates also sharing in the expense.

What was primarily discussed by the speakers was touched upon by Manager Dubinsky who emphasized the problems before the convention as they affected the cutters. He stressed the necessity for the adoption by the convention of such measures as would preserve the rights of the members and fulfill their needs.

Other speakers were Isidore Nagler, Samuel Perlmutter, David Fruhling, Joseph Fish, John C. Ryan, Joseph Fox, Louis Gabriel, and Julius Wsoat. Among the out-of-town cutters' delegates who spoke were Brothers Eaton of Montreal, Roy Glassman and Sam Lederman of Chicago and Brother Kramer of Boston. Everyone of the delegates in speaking, emphasized the need for cooperation between the cutters from all over the country for the purpose of adopting such measures as would be of greater service to the workers in general and the cutters in particular.

## Delegation Prepares Important Resolutions

The brothers representing the out-of-town cutters' locals said that they closely followed the activities of Local 10 and that this opportunity is best held out to them through this page. They stated, particularly Brother Glassman of the Chicago cutters, that no matter what the private opinion of a delegate may be, the cutters in the City of New York have built up a model organization.

They said furthermore that no question at the convention should be permitted adoption which would hinder the cutters in progressing in their work. Brother Fish evoked a good deal of applause when he stated that he will at no time forget that he is a member of Local 10.

No one who was present at the send-off dinner will for some time to come forget the spirit of brotherly feeling that prevailed. Cheer after cheer went up as the speakers pointed with pride to the achievements of Local 10. It was more than a send-off. It was a gathering of the most active element of Local 10, the element that made no small sacrifice for the up-building of the organization, imbued with the spirit to do their utmost to better the Union.

At the time of writing President Sigman had not made public the ap-

pointees to the various committees. However, there is little doubt but that the delegates of Local 10 will be assigned to important positions on the various committees.

Among the delegates representing the various cutters' locals from out-of-town with whom Local 10's delegation met are: Philadelphia Local 59 (Dress Cutters), Brother Paul Silver; Philadelphia Local 53 (Cloak Cutters), Brother Sam Otto and H. Dordick; Chicago Local 51, Brothers Sam Lederman and Roy Glassman. (The last named, by the way, is a nephew of Executive Board Member and Local 10 Delegate Max Stoller). Cleveland Local 42, Brothers Meyer Berkman and Charles Kreindler; Montreal Local 10, Brother Eaton and Kaiser; Boston Local 72, Brothers Kramer and Goldman; Cincinnati Local 63, Brother Dennis Kronin. Brother Kronin, though a cutter, represents a local composed of other crafts.

Among those who are constantly with Local 10's delegation and one who is considerably active in his efforts to make the visit of Local 10's delegation to Philadelphia a memorable one, is Brother Samuel Winick, chairman of the Dress Cutters' Local 50 of Philadelphia. He but recently paid the cutters' local in New York a visit.

## Temporary Heads Appointed

Brother Isidore Nagler is already at work as the secretary of the Credential Committee under the chairmanship of Abr. Snyder, Manager of Local 62. Nagler's work began last week in New York City.

While this is being written, the delegates of Local 10, in conjunction with the cutters' representatives from out-of-town, held a meeting at which the problems of the cutters were discussed and at which were also discussed important questions to be submitted to the convention in the form of resolutions.

Previous to this, the delegates of Local 10 had a meeting and elected Brother Nagler as their chairman. Brother Perlmutter is also very active among the delegates in their efforts at the convention.

At the last meeting of the Executive Board of Local 10 the suggestion of Manager Dubinsky was adopted to have Brother David Fruhling in charge of the Dress Department and Brother Benjamin Sachs of the Cloak Department for the duration of the convention. Both men are well familiar with the routine work of the office. Brother Hansel, during the course of the two weeks, will be taken up with complaints in the raincoat shops. This trade during the past few months has become active and a number of complaints have been reported.

## No Compromise of Principle of Equal Division of Work

Members will no doubt recall the report by Manager Dubinsky of a case before the impartial chairman in the cloak industry, involving the principle of equal division of work in general and for the cutters of Henry H. Pinder and Company in particular.

The position taken by the manager was that for the cutting of duplicate garments every full-fledged mechanic was qualified. And that to submit to the employer in this case, who insisted upon the employment of a special cutter in connection with this work, would be compromising the principle of equal division of work.

The "Woman's Wear," the New York trade paper in the ladies' garment industry for November 24th, explains the case in detail and sets forth the attitude of Manager Dubinsky in an article which follows in part.

"David Dubinsky, Manager of the Cutters' Local of the Cloakmakers' joint Board, before Impartial Chairman Raymond V. Ingersoll, yesterday afternoon, (November 23rd), in a case involving the stoppage of cutters at the shop of Henry H. Pinder and Company, took the position that the Union never could subscribe to the abandonment of the principle of equalization of work."

"He maintained stoutly that a cutter had only to follow a pattern, and that it was foolish for an employer to argue that he must have certain cutters to do his special work to the exclusion of other members of the craft."

"Henry H. Pinder, Chairman of the Industrial Council of the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association, together with Samuel Klein, General Manager of that organization, tried valiantly to convince the impartial chairman and Mr. Dubinsky that although the employer desired to use a certain group of cutters on duplicates at the outset of the spring season, he had no intention of dodging the obligation of and the collective contract with the Union to equalize work among the cutters and other crafts."

## Says It Would Start Discrimination

"Mr. Dubinsky said he would not subscribe to the principle that some cutters were qualified to cut duplicates and others were not."

"He made the suggestion that if the impartial chairman were to decide in favor of the employer who had taken such a stand, there would be a host of other manufacturers who would immediately start an era of discrimination against those they might feel not equipped to cut duplicates."

"Mr. Pinder interrupted the proceedings to state that they would personally promise that no discrimination would result from his desire to have certain cutters concentrate on duplicates at this stage of the season and promised a full and satisfactory equalization of work for all cutters in his shop."

"Mr. Dubinsky said that in the abstract such a procedure seemed reasonable enough, but that in practice an employer often found it difficult after favoring a few employees for a short period, to equalize work once the shop became busy and all hands were needed to carry out the work."

## Cutters Return But Divide Work

Chairman Ingersoll sought to soothen out the situation but suggested that Dubinsky take the word of Mr. Pinder, that is, that he will see to it that the work is divided equally. The manager, however, insisted that while it may seem that he is stubborn, nevertheless, the issue involved could not be settled on such grounds. The impartial chairman then said that he would take the case under advisement.

The sending by Dubinsky of the cutters back to work, who, it will be remembered, had made a stoppage, was merely a formality, the compliance with which was necessary under the agreement. But the cutters went back without compromising the principle of equal division of work. The work will be divided in strict accordance with the rules of the Union.

## Ball Committee Appointed

Due to a lack of space in last week's issue of "Justice," the name of the personnel appointed by President Philip Ansel to constitute the Arrangements Committee for the next annual ball of Local 10 were omitted. The affair will take place on Saturday evening, January 9th, 1926, at the Hunt's Hotel, 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard, Bronx.